

REMARKS

The Section 112 Rejections

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the Examiner stating that the phrase “the feature complex” was unclear. Applicant believes the amendment of claim 3 satisfies and overcomes the Examiner’s rejection. This amendment has been made to clarify the text of claim 3 and is unrelated to issues regarding the patentability of claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 3.

The Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224 to Hou (“Hou”). Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Initially, Applicant notes that claims 1 and 18 have been amended to point out that the system state database includes “a plurality of system states, each state comprising a plurality of possible steps in a call flow.” These features were taken from claims 16 and 33, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that these changes place the claims in condition for allowance because Hou does not disclose or suggest such a system state database.

The reference database 50 disclosed in Hou is used to store speech records of so-called “call labels,” not steps in a call flow, as in the claims of the present invention. More specifically, Hou’s stored speech records appear to represent destinations of a subscriber’s call, e.g. “call office” (see column 10, lines 14-15).

Because Hou does not disclose each and every feature of the present invention, Hou cannot anticipate the claims of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-34.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

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